BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

Torquay Riparian Authority
REPORT 1959

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1959

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1959, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 sent with Circular 33/52.

As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report were revised, and the full details are only required every five years; the last quinquennial report was for 1955, and the intermediate years will be covered by a shorter report. In the year under review certain sections, marked with an asterisk, are therefore omitted as there has been no change to record; but the sectional headings are retained to ensure continuity.

*SECTION 1—STAFF

NO CHANGE

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :

St. Marychurch Town Hall, Torquay

Tel. No.: Torquay 88204 (Office)
83154 (Home)

SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	*Number*	*Tonnage*	*Number Inspected*		*Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board*
			By the Medical Officer of Health	*By the Public Health Inspector*	
Foreign Ports	2	248	—	1	—
Coastwise ...	33	18,261	—	16	—
Total ...	35	18,509	—	17	—

In addition, local fishing vessels made 1,336 visits (total tonnage 6,336) to the fish quay and frequent inspections of these have been made. 821 tons of fish were landed during the year.

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	Number of passengers INWARDS Number of passengers OUTWARDS	This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920
CARGO TRAFFIC ..	Principal IMPORTS.	Bog Ore (1 Cargo). Coal (1 Cargo).
	Principal EXPORTS.	None.

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1959:
Cherbourg, Amble, Guernsey, and general coastwise.
FOREIGN PORTS were: Esbjerb (Denmark).

The wharves at Torquay are approved by the Customs for the import of timber (incl. Plywood, Hardboard and Wallboard) Slates and Bog Ore, and for the export of Bricks and Roofing Tiles.

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*SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

*SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

NO CHANGE

SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

(1) *List of infected areas.* (*Regulation* 6)

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.

The list of infected ports and areas supplied from the Ministry of Health each week is noted at the Public Health Department and is then taken by the District Public Health Inspector to the Customs Officer who retains it for the week; when each new list is taken, the list for the previous week is returned to the Health Department.

(2) *Radio Messages.*

(*a*) *Arrangement for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the District.* (*Regulation* 13.)

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless messages, if required.

(*b*) *Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships, and for acting thereon.* (*Regulation* 14 (1) (*a*) *and* (2)).

These messages are received through the Post Office, and would in the first instance be to the Local Shipping Agents, thence to the Customs Officer and subsequently to the Medical Officer of Health.

(3) *Notification otherwise than by radio.* (*Regulation* 14 (1) (*b*)). *Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.*

Messages are received or sent by the Customs Officer communicating with the Coast Guard Station at Berry Head for signals either of flags or flash lamps in morse; Berry Head commands the whole Bay for shipping.

Detailed notices on the Maritime Declaration of Health instruct Masters of vessels to fly the International signals as given in the Regulations. Any notifications to the Customs Officer are communicated at once to the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) *Mooring Stations.* (*Regulations* 22 *to* 30)—*Situation of Stations and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.*

The quarantine mooring buoy which was situated 1,000 yards South-West out to sea from the end of Haldon Pier, painted yellow and black, and lighted at night, was washed away in a storm, and it was decided that this should not be replaced, but a Quarantine Anchorage established in its place.

This anchorage has been established in a position Latitude 50 Degs. 27′ 00″ North and Longitude 03 Degs. 31′ 30″ West in 5½ fms. water at M.L.W.O.S., extending in a North South-East and West direction (TRUE), each way 750 feet forming the diagonals of a square having sides each 1,000 feet.

This position is some 3 cables, 162 Degs. (TRUE) from the original Quarantine Buoy position, and 4 cables from Torquay Harbour in what is marked as TORQUAY ROADS on Admiralty Chart No. 26.

This anchorage is easily verified by Mariners by cross bearings on some seven prominent landmarks all of which are within 3½ nautical miles and include four which are lighted.

(5) *Arrangements for:*

(*a*) *Hospital accommodation for infectious cases* (*other than Smallpox—See Section VII*).

Cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, are admitted to the Torquay Isolation Hospital, which is the Hospital for the Torquay District Management Committee area.

(*b*) *Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.*

Surveillance and following-up of contacts are undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors.

(*c*) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other Articles.*

There is a Cleansing Station for persons at St. Marychurch Town Hall. Disinfection of any Quarters aboard ship is dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors, and the disinfection of clothing and other articles takes place at the Isolation Hospital, where there is a modern Thresh Disinfector, together with facilities for articles which cannot be put through steam under pressure.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

(1) *Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.*

Cases are sent to Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital near Exeter, and the Medical Officer in charge is the Resident Physician of Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, Dr. R. P. Boyd.

(2) *Arrangement for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.*

The ambulance is arranged by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, who states that the vehicle is supplied by the Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital, and that all members of the crew are fully vaccinated.

(3) *Names of Smallpox Consultants available.*

The Consultants available are :—

Dr. J. Macrae, Ham Green Isolation Hospital, Bristol.
Dr. W. A. Lister, 7, The Crescent, Plymouth.
Dr. D. F. Johnstone, The Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

(4) *Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.*

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, N.W.4.

*SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

NO CHANGE

SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	*Disease*	*No. of cases during the year*		*No. of ships concerned*
		Passengers	*Crew*	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ...	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports	—	—	—	—

A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D ; (b) any suspected, case of any such disease.

NIL.

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

NIL.

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

NIL.

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) *Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.*

Enquiries are made by the Public Health Inspector from all Masters of vessels using the Port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels, and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

Systematic inspections are made of the ships and quays, with special reference to the presence of rat runs, excreta, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

(2) *Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.*

The examinations, if required at any time, will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

None has so far been required.

(3) *Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.*

Any ship requiring deratting is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(4) *Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.*

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

NIL.

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

This table does not apply as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		*Notices served*		*Result of serving notices*
		Statutory Notices	*Other Notices*	
General ...	17	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	—	—	—

*SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

NO CHANGE

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*SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

(Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

NO CHANGE

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*SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS

NO CHANGE

UNDERHILL (PLYMOUTH) LIMITED

REGENT STREET - PLYMOUTH